

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 2025

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
Rev. Ashok Kumar Alphonse - aalphonse@dioceseaj.org
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
Stephanie Baker-Business Manager
sbaker@dioceseaj.org
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary
stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
aalphonse@dioceseaj.org
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM
WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM
THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM
SATURDAY - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For Families in Crisis
We pray that broken families might discover the cure of their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in in



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Mary Petrak, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Apr. 6-8:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Apr. 6-11:00 AM - John Sukala, Patrick Schurr

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Apr. 6- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 6-11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Lexi Tatar

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Apr. 6-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick
Sun. Apr. 6-11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Francel Dandrea,
Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Sun. Apr. 6-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ed Stoltz,
Jane Strasser
Sun. Apr. 6-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark

SACRISTAN

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Apr. 6- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Apr. 6- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Apr. 5- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Julie Beiswenger
Sun. Apr. 6- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Apr. 6- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

2025 JUBILEE YEAR: The 2025 Jubilee will be centered on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." Throughout this Jubilee year, we are called to reflect on God's boundless mercy and embrace our mission to live out the Gospel in everyday life.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – To encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!

OPERATION RICE BOWL - we are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the Spiritual Life. Rice bowls give us an opportunity to support the poorest of the poor throughout the world through Catholic Relief Services. Rice bowls should be returned to the Gathering Space basket by Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED: This Sunday we continue our Adult Ed sessions on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. Even without the book, you are welcome to join our discussion!

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2025 –Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties – and one of those holy duties is to support the Church. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope to life through their time and talent in serving the community through the many ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive. You can place your Commitment Card in the offertory basket, or you can send it in the mail or make an online gift at www.ajdiocese.org/giving.

BRUNCH FOR THE WHOLE BUNCH! Please join us in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym) after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, April 6th for a Spring Fling Brunch during our Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy a bite to eat while the children hunt for eggs. Even if you don't have any children participating in the Egg Hunt, please join us for the brunch and enjoy the fellowship of our parish community. We hope to see you there!

LOOKING AHEAD: Our heating and air-conditioning unit for the church is on its last legs! We are getting bids on replacing it, and we know it will be costly! More information on how you can help will be forthcoming!

SAVE THE DATES!

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 4th Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 6th after the 11am Mass in the gym

Deacon Gene's Birthday Breakfast: Tuesday, April 15th after Morning Mass in the Parish Center

Monsignor Becker's 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass & Luncheon: Sunday, May 4th at the 11am Mass followed by a luncheon at the Casino-RSVP's due by April 7th!

May Crowning: Sunday, May 4th at the 11am Mass-All children are invited to participate!

Padre Pio Bus Trip: Friday, May 2nd to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA-See flyer for details & to sign up!

PADRE PIO BUS TRIP : St. John's will be sponsoring a bus trip to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA on Friday, May 2, 2025. The bus will depart at Lowe's at 5:15am and return around 9:30pm. A variety of events/activities will be available to attend throughout the day. The cost is \$90. Please see flyer in the Gathering Space for more details and to sign up by April 1st. Contact Cecelia Bloom 814-937-2130 or Marilyn Bevan 814-695-4181 for questions.

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED: What better way to be involved in our liturgy and our parish life than as an altar server! If your children are in grade 4 or higher, they can be an altar server. We are all called to use our gifts and talents to serve God and others, and answering that call as an altar server is an act that reaps many blessings. As an added bonus, St. John 's has a special sector to altar serving where parents can serve with their children. Perhaps you have seen these families serving together; that is no accident! Our parents choose to serve with their children and share in the joy of deepening their Catholic faith together. Please consider joining this special ministry and receive detailed training as a server. You may contact Iris at iristat38@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

Schedule for the Week of March 30

Sunday, March 30- Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Joyce Bagshaw* requested by the Sibold family

Monday, March 31- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Donna O'Brien* requested by Dave & Connie McManuels

Tuesday, April 1 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth* requested by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Wednesday, April 2- Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell* requested by Carol Galioto

Thursday, April 3- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by Deacon Gene Neral

Friday, April 4 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tiffany Mickens* requested by Linda Weyandt

Saturday, April 5- Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Robert J. Cole* requested by Mary Ann Cole

Sunday, April 6- Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Hilda Neal* requested by Julie & Bernie Beiswenger

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Prayer, Our Deepest Longing: Sundays at 6:00pm in the Parish Center beginning March 9th. Book discussion led by Mary Petrak. For questions, contact Mary at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

Adult Education: Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10:45am in the cafeteria beginning March 16th. Discussions will be based on the book "An Altar in the World." All are welcome!

Additional Penance Services and Fish Fry information can be found on the diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org for local parishes.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not "measuring up" in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and re-birth. In fact, the word "lent" comes from the Old English word, "lencten," which means spring. Lent is intended to be a springtime for us in our spiritual lives where all can become new again.

We owe God everything! But let's start by giving him one little thing. Take even a faltering step closer to Him – go to confession, join in the Stations of the Cross, call a family member or friend you are at odds with and try to reconcile. With just the tiniest bit of spiritual "spring cleaning" we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about.

March 15/16

Envelopes	\$ 4,446.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 297.00
Parish Development	\$ 85.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 35.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 70.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,473.52
Total Offertory	\$ 6,426.52

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE: Your sacrificial gift of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need and formation of our priests and deacons. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties – and one of those holy duties is to support our Church. This year's theme "Follow Me" (Mt. 16:24) invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ, as we share in His mission of love and service, proclaiming the Good News to all. There is no limit to what we can accomplish together in Christ. If you didn't bring your pledge card to mass this weekend, or send it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. Our diocese's ministries need your support. All contributions received beyond our parish goal come directly back to the parish and will be used for general expenses here at St. John's. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY: Please join us on Mondays at 5:30pm in the church as we pray the Pro-Life Rosary. All are welcome!

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at giny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

All Garvey Manor Residents • Stephanie Baker
Bernie Beiswenger • Idy Caporuscio • Betsie Claar
Betty Dennis • Duane • Carol Field • Mark Hastings
Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh
Samantha McQuade • Marian Monios • John Patz
Dan Roberts • Anne Showalter • Rachel Sibold
Mary Frances Stokan • Donna Taddy • Tim Temofonte
Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel • Dorothy Yingling

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Journey Through Loss is a nine-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death recently or in the past. The program provides the opportunity to share or to listen and offers positive ideas for coping. All faiths are welcome. For information about the next session contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

BIRTHDAY CORNER FOR APRIL:

April 10th-Larry Field
April 12th-James & Barbara McLarren
April 15th-Deacon Gene Neral & Ray King
April 16th- Patricia Kenney
April 23rd-Donald Riley
April 24th-Betsy Lloyd
Something new-sending individual cards to our "senior" (80 and older) parishioners. If you wish to send a birthday card, use the address in your Parish Directory, place card in the Collection Basket or take to the Parish Office and the cards will be forwarded.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

MUSIC CONCERT: The Choir of Boys and Men of the Westminster Cathedral Choir from London, England will present a free, sacred Lenten music concert at 7:00 P.M., April 3, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, One Cathedral Square, Altoona. The concert is free; however, tickets are required. Tickets are available after weekend Masses (Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.) and on weekdays in the parish office, 13th Avenue, Altoona from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You may call the office (814-944-4603) to reserve your ticket/s.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

March 30th-Class-Stations of the Cross All Grade Activity - 11th Grade Rite of Sending at 11am Mass-Catholic and Public 11th Grade Students should attend.

**April 6th-Class-Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 11am Mass
April 13th-No Class-Palm Sunday**

April 20th-No Class-Easter Sunday

April 21st-11th Grade Confirmation Practice at 6pm

April 22nd-11th Grade Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm

April 27th-Class and 2nd Grade First Holy Communion Retreat

May 4th-Last Class! May Crowning and First Holy Communion at 11am Mass

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND SPRING FLING BRUNCH:

Please join us on Sunday, April 6th after the 11am Mass in the gym for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling Brunch. Children 13 and under are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and everyone of all ages is invited to join us for a Spring Fling Brunch with soup, sandwiches, salad, and lots of sweets! We will also have crafts and games for the children in the gym after the Egg Hunt. In case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be moved indoors. Please join us! All are welcome!

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS: The 60th Annual Novena in HONOR OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS will be held from Monday, March 31 to Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church (6th Avenue and 20th Street Altoona, PA). Solemn Opening Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the novena in the church.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Sunday April 6th, the Men's Club of St. Mary and St. Michael in Hollidaysburg will hold it's famous all you can eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast from 8AM-Noon at St. Michael Church Hall. Donation of \$6 for adults and \$3 for Children 12 and under. Come try the best pancake breakfast in town, which includes drinks and our popular pancake topping bar!

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, April 14, 2025 please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 pm with the business meeting beginning at 6pm. If you have any questions, please contact Regent Donna Hoover at 814-632-3509 or dannah31049@gmail.com.